

# Craig Nicholls

Happy Meals on wheels with The Vines frontman.

**Where are you and what are you up to?**

I'm in Indianapolis, which I think is in Indiana, and we're going to play a show in about two hours.

**Do you think what you do is worthwhile?**

Yeah, I wouldn't be doing it otherwise. Sometimes I'd like to just ride my skateboard or do some more painting, but I know this is what I'm supposed to be doing. Personally, I really enjoy the whole process of recording – it's very therapeutic. The end result is what it's all about and I take it very seriously, but there is a point where, you know... you can't let it kill you.

**What's the best skateboarding move you can pull off?**

A double kick-flip. I was doing single kick-flips for years and then it just occurred to put two together. If I tried it now I'd need five or 10 minutes to get it back, though, it's the sort of thing you have to practice if you want to pull it off all the time. I like skateboarding because it doesn't involve any thinking or talking.

**Who was the last person you texted?**

I've never sent a text message in my life. I'm really dull. I'm too slow to know how to work one of those things.

**What's your idea of Heaven and Hell?**

My idea of Heaven is just space and light. Hell is dark and compact and the music is really bad. In Heaven it's all acoustic guitars and harps and people playing drums... but just with brushes. You don't want to get things too rowdy or you'll get kicked out.

**What does God look like?**

I would think he'd be extremely big and he would have no facial hair. But, then again, I think he probably wouldn't have a face either.

**What does your bedroom look like?**

I painted a Kinks picture on the wall of the bedroom I had at my parent's house. I took the main idea from their Face To Face album, which is a dude with butterflies coming out of his head. I'm kind of in the middle of moving at the moment, so the main room is just a television, a stereo and a guitar. Hopefully, when I set up this new place I'm going to do more painting on the walls and some sculptures too.

**When was the last time you did the washing up?**

I can't remember, it was a *really* long time ago. I usually eat without a plate or use a paper plate so I don't have to wash any crockery and it's not too bad for the environment. I think the catering people think it's strange and sometimes you get some mess on the carpet, but I like eating without plates.

**You seem obsessed with McDonald's. How do you keep the weight off?**

It's my metabolism. Sometimes I can be really lazy and just

lay around listening to music and smoking, but when I'm on stage playing and the music takes over me I can be really, really hyperactive. That's the closest I get to exercise these days, I guess.

**What's your favourite McDonald's meal?**

Oh god, it's changing all the time, but I'm fairly settled on the cheeseburger.

**Do they taste better in America?**

Nah, it's good everywhere. I haven't eaten it today but we stopped at a truck stop last night and it was weird. The McDonald's looked closed down but I walked through the drive-thru with Travis from Blink-182 and got a couple of cheeseburgers. Still, the venue we're playing at has a hot dog stand literally two feet from where we're parked and that's what I'm thinking of when I get there. You get all that onion and stuff, so I think it's maybe slightly more sophisticated than McDonald's.

**"In Heaven it's all about playing guitars and drums... but just with brushes."**

**What do you want to have 200 of?**

Oh jeez, that's really hard. I guess 200 cheeseburgers.

**What's the best advice you've ever received?**

My dad played in a band and he always told me to enjoy it, whatever happened. That's been really good and I've always tried to remember that in some of the harder times.

**Who's the greatest living Englishman?**

Richard Ashcroft. For me he's a genius. In The Verve he made this amazing, futuristic rock'n'roll and his voice is amazing and poetic. His music is really mellow too – Bittersweet Symphony still blows my mind. I know that his new stuff hasn't been so well received, but I can't understand it. Some of it is extremely deep and meaningful and sentimental.

**What's the worst chat-up line you've ever heard?**

I guess, What's your favourite colour? is pretty hardcore, but I can't really remember any lines. A girl came up to me the other day and I think she was trying to kiss me or something like that, but I don't know, it's all a big circus at the moment and it's really hard to tell if people are just messing around. That's why I'm so into the studio thing right now.

**Who do you love?**

Oh, I'll just say everyone. That's a good message to end the interview on.



